



BOROUGH OF  
KIDDERMINSTER



ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE WORK OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR

1939

JAMES R. CRAIG, M.B., Ch.B., M.C.

(Medical Officer of Health)

G. A. NORTH, M.S.I.A., C.R.San.I.

(Chief Sanitary Inspector)

# HEALTH COMMITTEE.

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HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR

(COUNCILLOR J. ANDREWS (Vice-Chairman)).

THE DEPUTY MAYOR

(ALDERMAN H. W. CHESHIRE, J.P.)

ALDERMAN THOS. GRIFFIN, J.P. (Chairman).

Alderman	E. G. EDDY, M.B.E., J.P.	Councillor	R. TIPLER
„	W. T. PEARCE	„	J. E. TALBOT
„	O. W. DAVIES	„	A. W. BUCKLEY
Councillor	J. WRIGHT	„	J. BRISTOW
„	G. ANTON	„	G. N. WESTON
„	MISS E. C. ADDENBROOKE, J.P.		

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## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE BOROUGH.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

JAMES R. CRAIG, M.B., Ch.B., M.C.

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER :

J. CRISP GRIFFITHS, M.D. (Lond).

MEDICAL OFFICER (INFANT WELFARE CENTRES) :

P. DIGBY GRIFFITHS, M.B., B.Chir.

MEDICAL OFFICER, ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINICS :

MISS E. M. M. WILLETT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

PUBLIC ANALYST :

H. E. MONK, B.Sc., F.I.C.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR AND CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT :

G. A. NORTH, M.S.I.A., C.R.San.I.

(Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector).

SANITARY INSPECTOR :

J. B. HINTON, Cert. S.I.B., A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,

(Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector).

HEALTH VISITOR :

MISS E. E. MELLOR, S.R.N., C.R.San.I.

## SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR 1939 and 1938.

	1939	1938
Area of District in Acres ... ..	4694	4694
Population at Census, 1931 ... ..	28917	28917
Estimated Population (mid-year) for	(a) 32990	32570
(a) Birth Rate and (b) Death Rate	(b) 33210	
No. of Inhabited Houses, estimated ...	10185	9932
No. of Persons per House ... ..	3.14	3.28
Rateable Value ... ..	£179563	£175007
Sum represented by Penny Rate ...	£696	£674
Number of Marriages ... ..	526	303
Number of Live Births ... ..	562	506
<b>Nett Birth Rate</b> ... ..	<b>17.03</b>	<b>15.53</b>
Birth Rate for England and Wales		
(Live Births) ... ..	15.00	15.10
Number of Illegitimate Births ... ..	28	27
Number of Deaths ... ..	400	379
<b>Nett Death Rate</b> ... ..	<b>12.04</b>	<b>11.63</b>
Death Rate for England and Wales ...	12.1	11.60
No. of Deaths under one year of age ...	17	19
Of these there were illegitimate ...	3	2
<b>Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Births</b> ...	<b>30.14</b>	<b>37.00</b>
Infantile Mortality for England and		
Wales ... ..	50.0	53.00
Total Deaths from Diarrhoea (under		
two years of age) ... ..	2	2
No. of Deaths from all forms of Tuber-		
culosis ... ..	22	25
No. of Deaths from Cancer ... ..	62	51
No. of Deaths from Influenza ... ..	4	10
No. of Deaths from Measles ... ..	Nil	
No. of Deaths from Whooping Cough ...	2	
Rainfall in inches ... ..	28.95	25.71

<i>Year</i>	<i>Births</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Births over Deaths increase</i>
1935 ... ..	459	420	39
1936 ... ..	483	405	78
1937 ... ..	518	430	88
1938 ... ..	506	379	127
1939 ... ..	562	400	162

# ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1939.

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TOWN HALL,

KIDDERMINSTER,

November, 1940.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
HEALTH COMMITTEE.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MISS ADDENBROOKE, GENTLEMEN,

I propose to restrict the Report to important vital statistics, so that the continuity from year to year shall be unbroken. But one or two salient points call for a special though somewhat brief reference.

1. For the first time for many years the increase of births over deaths has exceeded 150, viz. 162.

2. The new record Infant Death Rate of 37 established in 1938 has been again broken, the rate for 1939 being 30. The rate for England and Wales in both years was 50 (approximately).

3. There were no deaths from Measles, Scarlet Fever or Diphtheria during the year.

4. The expected disturbance in the health of the child population as a result of the Evacuation Scheme did not materialize. An increase in skin diseases especially scabies and impetigo did occur, but not more so than during the great war when evacuation did not obtain.



## VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR 1939.

<b>Total Births</b> (Live and Still)	...	...	...	...	<b>572</b>
<b>Birth Rate</b> ...	...	...	...	...	<b>17.34</b>
<b>Birth Rate</b> (England and Wales) (Live and Still)	...	...	...	...	<b>15.59</b>
<b>LIVE BIRTHS :</b>	M.	F.			
Legitimate	534	287	247	<b>Total Live Births</b>	<b>562</b>
Illegitimate	28	17	11	<b>Birth Rate (Live)</b>	<b>17.03</b>
<b>STILL BIRTHS</b>	10	Rate per 1,000 total births			17.48
<b>Deaths</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>Death Rate</b>			<b>12.04</b>
Death Rate (England and Wales) 1939	...	12.1			
Percentage of total deaths occurring in public institutions					33
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth	...	from sepsis	...	Nil	
	...	from other causes	...	3	
<b>Maternal Mortality Rate</b> (per 1,000 Total Births)	...				<b>5.22</b>
"    "    " (England and Wales)	...	...	...	2.82	
<b>Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—</b>					
Legitimate ...	14	Illegitimate ...	3	Total	17
<b>Deaths of Infants under one year, per 1,000 births</b>	...				<b>30.14</b>
"    "    "    " (England and Wales, 1939)	...	...	...	50	
Death Rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	26.22
Death Rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	107.14
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	62
"    "    Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil
"    "    Whooping-cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	2
"    "    Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	2

The ages at which deaths have taken place during 1939 are as follows :

Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	17
Between 1 and 2 years	...	...	...	...	2
Between 2 and 5 years	...	...	...	...	6
Between 5 and 15 years	...	...	...	...	6
Between 15 and 25 years	...	...	...	...	10
Between 25 and 45 years	...	...	...	...	42
Between 45 and 65 years	...	...	...	...	94
65 years and upwards	...	...	...	...	223
					<hr/> 400 <hr/>

The following table shows the ages at which the deaths of Infants under 1 year of age occurred :—

Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
8	1	1	—	10	4	—	3	—	17

The causes of infant deaths were as follows :

Prematurity	...	...	...	5	Asphyxia	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	3	Acute Bronchitis	...	...	...	1
Congenital heart disease	...	...	...	2	Accidental Death	...	...	...	1
Anencephalic	...	...	...	1	Congestion of Lungs	...	...	...	1
Haemorrhage (Internal)	...	...	...	1	Convulsions	...	...	...	1

## NUMBER OF DEATHS FROM EACH DISEASE, AND SEX.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	MALE.	FEMALE.
1.—Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers...	—	—
2.—Measles ... ..	—	—
3.—Scarlet Fever ... ..	—	—
4.—Whooping Cough ... ..	—	2
5.—Diphtheria ... ..	—	—
6.—Influenza ... ..	—	4
7.—Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	1	—
8.—Cerebro-spinal fever ... ..	—	—
9.—Tuberculosis of respiratory system	8	9
10.—Other Tuberculosis Diseases ...	1	4
11.—Syphilis ... ..	2	—
12.—General paralysis of the insane tabes dorsalis ... ..	—	—
13.—Cancer, malignant disease ...	25	37
14.—Diabetes ... ..	5	6
15.—Cerebral haemorrhage, etc. ...	13	18
16.—Heart Disease ... ..	39	56
17.—Aneurysm ... ..	2	—
18.—Other Circulatory Diseases ...	12	12
19.—Bronchitis ... ..	7	6
20.—Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	6	11
21.—Other Respiratory Diseases ...	—	2
22.—Peptic Ulcer ... ..	2	—
23.—Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years) ...	2	—
24.—Appendicitis ... ..	—	2
25.—Cirrhosis of liver ... ..	1	—
26.—Other diseases of liver, etc. ...	—	1
27.—Other digestive diseases ... ..	3	3
28.—Acute and chronic nephritis ...	7	6
29.—Puerperal sepsis ... ..	—	—
30.—Other puerperal causes ... ..	—	3
31.—Congenital debility, premature births, malformations, etc. ...	5	4
32.—Senility ... ..	8	6
33.—Suicide ... ..	5	1
34.—Other violence ... ..	13	11
35.—Other defined diseases ... ..	16	12
36.—Causes ill-defined or unknown ...	—	—
—Diarrhoea (over 2 years) ... ..	1	—
	184	216

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH.

(I.) The Public Health Officers of the Authority are listed on the first page of this Report for convenient reference.

### (II.) (a) Laboratory Facilities.

The usual arrangements with the County Public Analyst still exist.

Extended laboratory facilities have been instituted at the Kidderminster and District General Hospital, Bacteriological Department having been opened to which any practitioner may refer cases or specimens.

(b) **Ambulance Facilities.** For Non-Infectious and Accident Cases, two motor ambulances are maintained by the Council, staffed by the Borough Police. Efficiency is maintained as before.

(c) **Nursing in the Home.** No changes have been made in arrangements during 1939.

### (d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Name	Situation and Time of Session	Average Attendances	Provided by
Maternity & Child Welfare Centres	(1) Prospect Lane Thursday, 2—4 p.m. (2) St. John's Institute Tuesday, 2.45—4 p.m. (3) Orchard Street Mondays, 2.45—4 p.m. (4) Sutton Park Tuesdays, 2.45—4 p.m.	92 56 57 73	278 per ses- sion Local Authority
Tuberculosis	Kidderminster General Hospital Thursday, 2—4 p.m. and at 5.15 p.m.	16 per week	
Venereal	Kidderminster General Hospital Males, Friday, 5.30 p.m. Females, Tues., 2.0 p.m.	17 per week	
Ante-Natal	Prospect Lane on 1st, 3rd and 4th Monday, 2—4 p.m.	17 per session	
Consultative Ante-Natal Clinic	Kidderminster General Hospital Weekly at 11 a.m.		Local Authority



(e) **Hospitals.**

(1) **NORTH WORCESTERSHIRE JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL—**For reception of infectious diseases, chiefly diphtheria and scarlet fever. Proposed extensions have been postponed.

(2) **PUBLIC ASSISTANCE INSTITUTION.**

No. of beds (including Children's Beds) ...	225
Maternity Beds ... ..	4

As a war measure, the Hospital has been upgraded to an A.I. Hospital. An operating theatre was equipped, and X-Ray apparatus installed. This necessitated closure of Midwifery Ward, and arrangements were made for such cases to be admitted to the Greenhill Hostel.

(3) **KIDDERMINSTER AND DISTRICT GENERAL HOSPITAL—**(Voluntary Hospital—Normal accommodation 145 Beds). There is an X-Ray Department, Massage and Sunlight Treatment and Clinics for Dentistry, Orthopaedics, Ophthalmology, Gynaecology, Ear, Throat and Nose, Venereal Diseases and a Fracture Clinic.

Radium treatment has been suspended during the war, though arrangements are made for necessary treatment to be obtained in other institutions.

**SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**

**Water.**—The sources of water supply were exhaustively dealt with in the report for the year 1933.

Fortnightly samples were taken from the main bore-holes throughout the year, and were satisfactory. It was considered advisable to maintain the chlorination of the water supply. The efficacy of this process was checked by frequent sampling of tap water from all points of the town. In every case the report showed the water to be fit for drinking purposes. After any prolonged period of drought, weekly samples of the main bore-hole are sent for analysis.

**TABLE OF ANALYSIS OF SAMPLES FOR THE YEAR.**

Samples taken from Taps at various premises	...	...	35
Samples taken from Borough Main Wells	...	...	95
Sample taken from Private Wells	...	...	1
Sample taken of Swimming Bath Water	...	...	1
Samples taken from Springs	...	...	5
			—
			137
			—

**DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.**

The sewers have been well maintained during the year, including the annual cleansing and minor repairs of the main outfall sewer through the centre of the town.



## SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The constructional works in connection with the new sewage disposal works were continued during the year, in spite of difficulty in supplies of materials.

## HOUSING, 1939.

The interruption to building progress which the war involved led to a curtailment of activity in the Queen Street Clearance Scheme. Fortunately, Eddy Road was completed. The completion of Woodbury Road and Jubilee Drive South, with its excellent situation and artistic layout made quite a satisfactory total for the year, *viz.* 165 houses built by your authority.

### (a) Housing Conditions.

The following are the House Construction figures for 1939 :  
No. of Houses Erected :

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	254
(b) By Local Authority (with State Assistance)	...	...	...	...	...	...	165
(c) By Private Enterprise	...	...	...	...	...	...	94

Statistical Returns of Inspection, Remedy of Defects, Abatement Notices and action in relation to Overcrowding are shown in pages 19 and 20.

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1939.

The year was generally favourable in respect of these diseases. A decline was noticeable in the incidence of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria was conspicuous by its absence, only six mild cases being notified. Notifications of Measles and Whooping-Cough were made compulsory by an Order of the Minister of Health, as from the 23rd October, 1939.

### Scarlet Fever.

No. of Cases Notified	...	...	...	...	...	84
No. of Cases Isolated in Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	55
Case rate per 1,000 living (Borough)	...	...	...	...	...	2.52
Case rate per 1,000 living (England and Wales)	...	...	...	...	...	1.89
No. of Deaths from Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

### Diphtheria.

No. of Cases Notified	...	...	...	...	...	6
No. of Cases Isolated in Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	4
Case rate per 1,000 living (Borough)	...	...	...	...	...	.18
Case rate per 1,000 living (England and Wales)	...	...	...	...	...	1.14
No. of deaths from Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

### Enteric Fever.

One case notified during the year, and seven cases of Paratyphoid B.

**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during  
the Year 1939.**

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total Cases Notified</i>	<i>Admitted to Hospital</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Diphtheria ... ..	6	4	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	84	55	—
Enteric Fever ... .. (including Paratyphoid)	8	8	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	5	5	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	7	3	—
Pneumonia ... ..	18	12	17
Anthrax ... ..	—	—	—
Erysipelas ... ..	9	1	—
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	—	—	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever ... ..	—	—	—
Acute Polio-encephalitis ... ..	—	—	—
Acute Polio-myelitis ... ..	—	—	—
Dysentery ... ..	1	1	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	18	—	2
Measles ... ..	2	—	—

**Analysis of Total Notified Infectious Cases (other than  
Tuberculosis) during the year 1939.**

DISEASES												
Age Groups		Smallpox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Erysipelas	Whooping Cough	Measles	Dysentery
Under 1 year	...	—	—	—	—	—	3	7	—	1	—	—
1—2 years	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	—	—
2—3 years	...	—	3	—	—	—	2	—	—	3	—	—
3—4 years	...	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	1	—
4—5 years	...	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
5—10 years	...	—	45	2	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—
10—15 years	...	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
15—20 years	...	—	3	2	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
20—35 years	...	—	8	1	2	5	3	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 years	...	—	—	1	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
45—65 years	...	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	6	—	—	1
65 and over	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
TOTAL CASES	...	—	84	6	8	5	18	7	9	18	2	1

### OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases usually come under the care of the Ophthalmic Surgeon at Kidderminster General Hospital. The following table for 1939 cases show the results of treatment :—

CASES			Vision Un- Impaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blind- ness	Deaths	Left District
Notified	Treated						
	At Home	In Hospital					
7	4	3	7	—	—	—	—

### TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table shows the number of notified cases and deaths during the last five years :—

Year	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Death-rate (all forms) per 1,000 living
	New Cases	Deaths	New Cases	Deaths	
1935	42	18	14	6	.76
1936	36	18	11	7	.78
1937	33	16	14	5	.64
1938	33	19	13	6	.77
1939	18	17	7	5	.66

### New Cases and Mortality during 1939.

Age Periods				NEW CASES				DEATHS			
				Pulmonary M.	F.	Non-Pulmonary M.	F.	Pulmonary M.	F.	Non-Pulmonary M.	F.
Under 1 year	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years	...	...	...	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
5 to 10 years	...	...	...	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
10 to 15 years	...	...	...	2	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
15 to 20 years	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1
20 to 25 years	...	...	...	6	—	—	1	1	2	—	—
25 to 35 years	...	...	...	5	3	—	—	4	4	1	1
35 to 45 years	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
45 to 55 years	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
55 to 65 years	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	...	...	...	14	4	1	6	8	9	1	4

In concluding this short Report, I should like to pay tribute to the Staff of the Health Department, and thanks to the Members of the Health Committee for kind interest and continual support.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES R. CRAIG.



# REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1939.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MISS ADDENBROOKE, GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in submitting my Ninth Annual Report on the work accomplished by my Department for the year ended 31st December, 1939.

The normal activities and early publication of the report have been upset because of the war and the report is chiefly confined to essential matters and statistics for record purposes.

## TOWN IMPROVEMENT.

Excellent progress has been continued under the Housing Act, 1930 and the corresponding provisions in the Housing Act, 1936.

## HOUSING PROGRESS, 1933 to 1939.

### Formal and Informal Action.

Houses demolished or put out of use for human habitation	323
Houses reconditioned, repaired and made into through houses	40
Total number of persons displaced and re-housed in Council houses	1,162

### PUBLIC CLEANSING (Refuse Collection and Disposal).      £      s.      d.

*The cost of collection and disposal of refuse for the year 1939 was	...	...	...	...	...	6240	0	0
*The income was	...	...	...	...	...	731	12	2
The net cost being						£5,508	7	10

The above includes the purchase of a new "Karrier Bantam" motor vehicle.  
The total weight collected (estimated from periodic test weighings) 10,968 tons.

### Collection of Domestic and Trade Refuse.

Total No. of loads of Refuse, Night Soil, etc. removed (all vehicles)	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,299
Total weight of refuse, etc. removed (estimated from test weighings)	...	...	...	...	...	tons	10,968
Dry Ashpits emptied	...	...	...	...	...	...	43

### Night Work.

Closet Pans emptied	...	...	...	...	...	6,231
Privies and Middens emptied	...	...	...	...	...	25
Cesspools emptied	...	...	...	...	...	16
Loads of Night-soil removed	...	...	...	...	...	346

\*Financial Year ended 31st March, 1940.

**Disposal of Refuse.**

Tipped at Pike Mills	...	...	...	...	(loads)	952
Tipped at Broadwaters	...	...	...	...	„	2,443
Tipped at Puxton	...	...	...	...	„	1,507
Tipped at Hoobrook	...	...	...	...	„	2,407
Tipped at Worcester Road	...	...	...	...	„	94
Miscellaneous Tippings	...	...	...	...	„	21
Tipped at Foley Park	...	...	...	...	„	529
Total (loads)						8,299

**Departmental Income.**

The income of the Department was again of a varied nature mainly accruing from the removal of trade refuse and the sale of baled waste paper, while other items adding to the income were the sale of manure, emptying cesspools and removing refuse from the Retail Market.

The total realised was £731 12s. 2d.

**Insufficient and Unsuitable Sanitary Accommodation.**

New sanitary accommodation has been provided during the year as follows :—

Lenchville	...	...	...	...	...	4 W.C's.
York Street	...	...	...	...	...	2 W.C's.
21-25, Duke Street	...	...	...	...	...	2 W.C's.

**Canal Boats Inspection.**

During the year frequent visits have been made to the Canal and Wharves, and inspections made in accordance with the Public Health Act, 1936. (Part X) Canal Boats, and the Canal Boat Regulations, 1878.

From observations made, numerous canal boats which ply on the Canal are used for sleeping purposes by the two men in charge of each boat, for two or three nights each week.

The boats are not registered as dwellings in accordance with Section 250 of the Public Health Act, 1936 and the Canal Boat Regulations of 1878. (No new regulations have yet been issued as empowered by Section 251 of the Public Health Act, 1936).

The position would be clarified if a legal definition of a dwelling was in evidence and I trust that the expression dwelling will be defined in the new regulations.

The following figures are a synopsis of the year's work :—

Total boats on register in the Borough	...	...	...	1
Number of boats believed to be in use or available	...	...	...	1
Number of inspections	...	...	...	3

### Common Lodging Houses.

The eight registered houses in the Borough are the objects of frequent attention and are visited regularly. These houses have accommodation for 164 lodgers.

Visits made to common lodging houses during the year ... 20

### Bakehouses.

The inspection of bakehouses has again been carried out throughout the year and resulted in the bakehouses being maintained at the same high hygienic standard as previous years.

The following occasional matters required attention :—

Lime-washing of bakehouse ...	...	...	...	5
Dirty troughs and floors ...	...	...	...	2

### Offensive Trades.

The appended list of establishments gives those trades which are scheduled in this area as offensive trades.

Fish Friers ...	...	...	...	...	26
Gut Scraper ...	...	...	...	...	1
Tripe Boiler ...	...	...	...	...	3
Hide and Skin Trades ...	...	...	...	...	1

### Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915.

### Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922.

### Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

Under the above enactments we have registered the following :

Retail Purveyors of Milk ...	...	...	...	61
Wholesale Traders of Milk ...	...	...	...	36
Residents, Purveyors of Milk ...	...	...	...	29
Residents, Cow-keepers ...	...	...	...	10

*(The above figures are exclusive of small shops selling bottled milk only).*

We have nine cow-keepers in the Borough who use thirteen cowsheds for the housing of approximately 120 cows. Frequent visits are made to the premises.



### Slaughter-Houses and Knackers Yard.

We have, in the Borough, two registered slaughter-houses, fifteen licensed slaughter-houses and one knackers yard.

These establishments are generally conducted in a satisfactory manner though the following points needed attention during the year :—

Limewashing of slaughter-house	...	...	...	4
Offal not removed	...	...	...	15
Regulations not complied with	...	...	...	3
Yards dirty	...	...	...	4
Repairs required	...	...	...	2
Dirty fat board	...	...	...	3

1,500 visits were paid to slaughter-houses and a list of the meat condemned by reason of these visits will be found below.

During the year under review 16,175 animals, (Cattle, sheep, lambs, pigs and calves) have been slaughtered for human consumption. Every effort has been made by your inspectors to examine all carcasses and organs, and this has entailed numerous visits outside the normal office hours, to the various slaughter-houses scattered throughout the district.

#### CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle (exclud'g Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed ... ..	1,528	99	134	7,981	6,433
Number Inspected ... ..	1,467	99	128	6,125	5,969

The following summary shows the nature of and cause of condemnation of meat and foods during the year either as a result of routine inspection of meat in slaughter-houses or as a result of the inspection of food in the Public Markets or grocery shops.

Meat Inspection is chiefly carried out by Mr. J. B. Hinton who is fully qualified and it is pleasing to record that the work in this connection has, in the main, been helped by the confidence established between the Department and the Meat Trade as to the manner in which this onerous duty is carried out.

**FOOD CONDEMNED DURING 1939.****CATTLE.**

Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	4834 lbs.	= 2 tons 3 cwt. 18 lbs.
Cirrhosis	...	...	...	...	482 lbs.	= 4 cwt. 34 lbs.
Hydatid Cysts	...	...	...	...	332 lbs.	= 2 cwt. 108 lbs.
Abscesses	...	...	...	...	398 lbs.	= 3 cwt. 62 lbs.
Inflammation	...	...	...	...	233 lbs.	= 2 cwt. 9 lbs.
Fatty Degeneration	...	...	...	...	36 lbs.	
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	10 lbs.	
Pyæmia	...	...	...	...	200 lbs.	= 1 cwt. 88 lbs.
Angiomatosis	...	...	...	...	131 lbs.	= 1 cwt. 19 lbs.
Actinomycosis	...	...	...	...	223 lbs.	= 1 cwt. 111 lbs.
Distomatosis	...	...	...	...	347 lbs.	= 3 cwt. 11 lbs.
Decomposition	...	...	...	...	162 lbs.	= 1 cwt. 50 lbs.
Visceral Pleurisy	...	...	...	...	269 lbs.	= 2 cwt. 45 lbs.
Melanosis	...	...	...	...	29 lbs.	

**Total Weight Condemned = 7,686 lbs.**  
**= 3 tons 8 cwt. 70 lbs.**

**SHEEP.**

Distomatosis	...	...	...	...	134 lbs.	= 1 cwt. 22 lbs.
Strongylosis	...	...	...	...	46 lbs.	
Abscesses	...	...	...	...	5 lbs.	
Peritonitis	...	...	...	...	20 lbs.	
Fatty Degeneration	...	...	...	...	3 lbs.	
Dropsical	...	...	...	...	60 lbs.	
Parasitic Cysts	...	...	...	...	134 lbs.	= 1 cwt. 22 lbs.
Accidents	...	...	...	...	50 lbs.	
Physiological Poorness	...	...	...	...	100 lbs.	

**Total Weight Condemned = 552 lbs.**  
**= 4 cwt. 104 lbs.**

**PIGS.**

Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	7647 lbs.	= 3 tons 8 cwt. 31 lbs.
Inflammation	...	...	...	...	279 lbs.	= 2 cwt. 55 lbs.
Cirrhosis	...	...	...	...	189 lbs.	= 1 cwt. 77 lbs.
Malnutrition	...	...	...	...	60 lbs.	
Pleurisy	...	...	...	...	141 lbs.	= 1 cwt. 29 lbs.
Erysipelas (Swine)	...	...	...	...	340 lbs.	= 3 cwt. 4 lbs.
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	160 lbs.	= 1 cwt. 48 lbs.
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	24 lbs.	
Dropsy	...	...	...	...	294 lbs.	= 2 cwt. 70 lbs.
Necrosis	...	...	...	...	15 lbs.	
Abscesses	...	...	...	...	97 lbs.	
Physiological Poorness	...	...	...	...	188 lbs.	= 1 cwt. 76 lbs.

**Total Weight Condemned = 9,434 lbs.**  
**= 4 tons 4 cwt. 26 lbs.**

**MISCELLANEOUS.**

138 Rabbits.	457 lbs. Cooked Ham	= 4 cwt. 9 lbs.
3 Dressed Fowl.	60 lbs. Fish.	
6 Grouse.	28 lbs. Kippers.	
3 lbs. Sausage.	12 lbs. Tongue.	
6 lbs. Pressed Beef.	2929 lbs. Peas in Shell	= 1 ton 6 cwt. 17 lbs.
23 lbs. Bacon.	140 lbs. Runner Beans	= 1 cwt. 28 lbs.
3 lbs. Veal.	55 lbs. Cherries.	
1 Box Herring Roes.	76 tins of Various Foodstuffs.	

**FOOD CONDEMNED—*contd.*****SUMMARY.****\*Grand Total Weight (Meat and Foods) Condemned :**

9 tons 10 cwts. 110 lbs. (21,390 lbs.)

" " " (Meat) Condemned :

7 tons 17 cwts. 90 lbs. (17,674 lbs.)

" " " (Tuberculosis) :

5 tons 11 cwts. 49 lbs. (12,481 lbs.)

\* *Excluding* Miscellaneous Condemnations.

**FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1928**  
**FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938**  
**and**  
**PUBLIC HEALTH (PRESERVATIVES ETC. IN FOOD)**  
**REGULATIONS 1925 to 1939.**

Total Number of Samples taken during the year 1939 ... 138

Milk ... .. 91	Sausages (beef) ... .. 2
Cream ... .. 2	Custard powder ... .. 2
Ice Cream ... .. 3	Cashew Nuts ... .. 1
Butter (English) ... 5	Table Jelly ... .. 2
Butter (New Zealand) 1	Sponge Mixture ... .. 1
Butter (Empire) ... 9	Flour ... .. 1
Margarine ... .. 1	Vinegar ... .. 1
Lardeen ... .. 1	Sulphur Ointment ... 1
Beef Dripping ... .. 2	Zinc Ointment ... .. 1
Sausages (pork) ... .. 11	

Eleven samples were reported upon adversely by the Public Analyst, and in each case a caution was given by letter and one person appeared before the Health Committee.

**ICE CREAM.**

Three samples of this commodity were examined during the year, the results of which are tabulated below :—

<i>No.</i>	<i>Bacteria per M L</i>	<i>B. Coli.</i>	<i>Fat</i>	<i>Preservatives</i>
93	200	Absent	12.4%	None
94	100	Absent	14.2%	"
95	1,000	Present in 1/10th m.l. Absent in 1/100 and 1/1000 m.l.	13.6%	"



MILK (Special Designations) ORDER 1936.  
BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

TABLE 1.

Sample	No. Taken	Methylene Blue Test		Coliform Test		
		No. satisfied Test	No. did Not satisfy Test	No. satisfied Test	No. did Not satisfy Test	
Designated Milks :—						
T.T. Certified	...	...	9	—	9	—
T.T.	...	...	11	—	11	—
Accredited	...	...	25	—	25	—
TOTALS		...	45	—	45	—

TABLE 2.

Samples.	No. taken	Bacteriological Count Per C.C.				Coliform Organisms Present in				Coli absent	No. did not satisfy Phosph- atase test.
		Under 30,000	Under 200,000	Under 500,000	Over 500,000	1 c.c.	10th c.c.	100th c.c.	1,000th c.c.		
Designated Milks :—											
* Pasteurised ... ..	9	3	3	—	3	—	—	2	4	3	5
Non-Designated Milks :—											
Loose Milk ... ..	6	2	1	—	3	2	1	—	2	1	—
TOTALS ... ..	15	5	4	—	6	2	1	2	6	4	5

\* In addition 4 samples of Pasteurised milk have been submitted for examination for the presence of Hoemolytic Streptococci, with negative results.

## 1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .. ...	337
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose...	620
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... ..	36
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose...	54
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in such a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	6
(4)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the sub-head above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	Nil.

## 2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT THE SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... ..	257
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## 3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

*Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—*

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	40
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :—	
	(a) By owners ... ..	40
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.

## 4.—HOUSING ACT, 1936. PART IV.—OVERCROWDING.

(a)	(i)	Number of Dwellings overcrowded at end of year ... ..	67
	(ii)	„ „ Families dwelling therein ...	67
	(iii)	„ „ Persons dwelling therein ...	546

(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year	...	...	...	1				
(c)	(i)	„	„	cases of overcrowding relieved during year	...	...	...	...	8
	(ii)	„	„	persons concerned in such cases	...				61
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	...	...	...				Nil.
(e)	Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report...	...							Nil.

#### SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED.

Preliminary notices served (for housing defects)	...	...	104
Intimation letters sent ( <i>re</i> sanitary defects)	...	...	84
Abatement notices served (for housing defects)	...	...	14
Notices to provide portable ash receptacles	...	...	86
Threatening notices served	...	...	10
Notices to School Medical Officer	...	...	72
Notices to Head Teachers	...	...	98
Notices to Parents	...	...	93
Certificates granted for children to attend school	...	...	64

#### MAGISTERIAL PROCEEDINGS.

It was found necessary to institute Magisterial Proceedings in the following cases, viz. :

1. For failing to comply with notices served under the Public Health Act 1936, *re* repairs to water closet. Summons withdrawn on payment of costs. Work complied.
2. For failing to comply with notices served under the Public Health Act 1936, *re* repairs to roofs of houses. Summons withdrawn on payment of costs. Work complied.



**RAINFALL.**

YEAR 1939. MONTHLY.				RAINFALL FOR PAST TEN YEARS. YEARS.			
INCHES.				INCHES.			
January	...	...	5.76	1930	...	...	32.93
February	...	...	.99	1931	...	...	30.43
March	...	...	1.42	1932	...	...	27.89
April	...	...	1.87	1933	...	...	20.06
May	...	...	1.05	1934	...	...	21.38
June	...	...	1.28	1935	...	...	26.13
July	...	...	4.04	1936	...	...	31.95
August	...	...	2.01	1937	...	...	34.41
September	...	...	.61	1938	...	...	25.71
October	...	...	3.30	1939	...	...	28.95
November	...	...	4.87				
December	...	...	1.75	Average	...	...	27.98
Total ... 28.95							

**MORTUARY.**

During the year 16 bodies were received into the Public Mortuary.

**CONCLUSION.**

The year has been an extremely busy one, and the good progress of the Department has been well maintained.

I wish to express my indebtedness to Mr. J. B. Hinton, Mr. N. J. Williams and the staff, for their continued co-operation and loyal service.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Miss Addenbrooke, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

G. A. NORTH,

*Chief Sanitary Inspector.*

TO THE CHAIRMAN, VICE-CHAIRMAN AND  
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

